



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A hot-fillable blow molded plastic container comprising:

- a finish with an opening;
- a base distal to said finish;
- a lower bumper transition adjacent to said base;
- an upper bumper transition that, together with said lower bumper transition, defines a label mounting region that comprises a vacuum panel region;
- a tubular dome between said upper bumper transition and said finish having cross sectional shape that is substantially the same throughout and comprising
 - an upper bell;
 - a peripheral waist having an angular extent of greater than about 90°; and
 - a lower bell; and
- a circumferential ring below said ~~dome~~ upper bumper transition.

Claim 2. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said label mounting region comprises said circumferential ring and said circumferential ring is adjacent said upper bumper transition.

Claim 3. (Original) The container according to claim 1, said upper bell comprising a logo.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) The container according to claim 1, said vacuum panel region comprising vacuum panels, said vacuum panels comprising an having a raised island therein.

Claim 5. (Original) The container according to claim 4, said raised island having adjacent surfaces that flex in response to a vacuum inside the container during a hot-fill process.

Claim 6. (Original) The container according to claim 1, said label mounting region having a width that is less than a width of said base.

Claim 7. (Original) The container according to claim 1, said base having a width that is approximately equal to a width of an outer periphery of said lower bell.

Claim 8. (Original) The container according to claim 1, said base having a width that is approximately equal to a width of an outer periphery of said lower bell and said label mounting region having a width that is less than a width of said base.

Claim 9. (Original) The container of claim 8, wherein said upper bumper transition provides a first taper between said lower bell and said label mounting region and said lower bumper transition provides a second taper between said base and said label mounting region.

Claim 10. (Original) The container of claim 9, wherein said first taper and said second taper are linear.

Claim 11. (Original) The container of claim 2, said label mounting region further comprising a lower ring and an upper label mounting area between said circumferential ring and said upper bumper transition and a lower label mounting area between said lower ring and said lower bumper transition.

Claim 12. (Original) The container according to claim 11, further comprising a label disposed between said upper bumper transition and said lower bumper transition and covering said circumferential ring and said vacuum panel region.

Claim 13. (Original) The container according to claim 4, further comprising a label mounting surface, wherein a width of said label mounting surface is approximately equal to width defined by opposing raised islands on the container.

Claim 14. (Original) The container according to claim 13, further comprising a label disposed between said upper bumper transition and said lower bumper transition and covering said circumferential ring, and said vacuum panels.

Claim 15. (Original) The container according to claim 13, wherein said label is adhered to said label mounting surface and said island.

Claim 16. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein the tubular dome has a cross sectional shape selected from substantially circular, substantially oval, substantially triangular, substantially rectangular, substantially square and substantially polyhedral.

Claim 17. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein the tubular dome has a substantially circular cross sectional shape.

Claim 18. (Original) The container according to claim 1, said container having an internal volume of about 20 fluid ounces or less.

Claim 19. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said waist, said upper bumper transition and said circumferential ring cooperate to provide top load strength and resistance to ovalization.

Claim 20. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein said waist, said lower bell and said circumferential ring cooperate to provide top load strength and resistance to ovalization.

Claim 21. (Original) The container according to claim 1, wherein the curvature of the waist and the curvature of the lower bell are selected to provide top load strength and resistance to ovalization.

Claim 22. (Original) The container according to claim 1, said dome having a proportionately large uninterrupted surface area relative to a surface area of said label mounting region.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A hot-fillable blow molded plastic container comprising:

- a finish with an opening;
- a base distal to said finish;
- a lower bumper transition adjacent to said base;
- an upper bumper transition that, together with said lower bumper transition defines a label mounting region having a width that is less than a width of said base and comprising
 - a circumferential ring adjacent to and below the upper bumper transition; and
 - a vacuum panel region below said circumferential ring; and
- a substantially cylindrical dome between said upper bumper transition and said finish and having a cross sectional shape that is substantially the same throughout and comprising
 - an upper bell;
 - a peripheral waist having an angular extent of greater than about 90°; and
 - a lower bell having a width that is larger than the width of said label mounting region and approximately equal to the width of said base;

wherein said upper bumper transition is linearly tapered between said lower bell and said label mounting region and said lower bumper transition is linearly tapered ~~from said bumper transition is linearly tapered~~ between said label mounting region and said base; and

said upper bumper transition and said circumferential ring cooperate to provide top load strength and resistance to ovalization.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) A method for making a container having a predetermined top load strength and resistance to ovalization comprising,

- providing a container having
 - a finish with an opening;
 - a base distal to said finish;
 - a lower bumper transition adjacent to said base;

an upper bumper transition that, together with said lower bumper transition defines a label mounting region that comprises a circumferential ring adjacent to the upper bumper transition and a vacuum panel region;

a tubular dome between said upper bumper transition and said finish having cross sectional shape that is substantially the same throughout and comprising

an upper bell;

a peripheral waist having an angular extent of greater than about 90°; and

a lower bell; and

adjusting a width of at least one of said upper bell, said waist, said lower bell and said label mounting region;

thereby providing a container having a predetermined top load strength and resistance to ovalization.

Claim 25. (Original) The method according to claim 24, further comprising adjusting a curvature of at least one of said upper bell, said waist, and said lower bell.

Claim 26. (Original) The method according to claim 24, further comprising selecting a width of said lower dome relative to a width of said label mounting region.

Claim 27. (Original) The method of claim 24, further comprising selecting a width of said upper dome and a height of said label mounting region that increases the proportional surface area of said dome relative to a surface area of said label mounting region.